



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Adam Joseph: (860) 509-6118
Cell: (860) 817-4165
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255
Cell (860) 463-5939

- STATEMENT -

BYSIEWICZ ENCOURAGED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION, URGES RELL TO SIGN LANDMARK HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

HARTFORD -- Connecticut Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz issued the following statement in response to a legal opinion issued by State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal regarding House Bill # 5336, An Act Establishing the Connecticut Healthcare Partnership.

"I am very encouraged to see Attorney General Blumenthal's thorough, well-reasoned opinion and can now say to Governor Rell: There is no cause for you to stand in the way of quality, affordable health care for thousands in our state. There is no significant cost to the state for opening up the state employees' health insurance pool to small businesses, non-profits, and municipalities. There is no legal way health insurance companies in Connecticut can arbitrarily raise their premiums by expanding the pool. As the chief business registrar for the State of Connecticut, I have recently recorded businesses shutting their doors at a record pace in this tough economy. After holding forums for small business entrepreneurs across the state, they have made it clear to me that one of the largest drags on their profits is the skyrocketing cost of health care. With the health care partnership, vastly more affordable insurance would become available to companies responsible for more than 90% of the job creation in our state. For the first time, comprehensive, affordable health care is now within reach. This is healthcare that will save taxpayers millions in the long run and will greatly contribute to sustainable growth in our economy. I urge Governor Rell to stand up for small business and sign this bill."